

**ANTI-WRINKLE BRA FOR SLEEPING****Description****Background of the Invention****Field of the Invention**

5       The present invention relates to sleeping brassieres and in particular to a bra worn while sleeping that is structured to reduce the formation of wrinkles in the upper chest of women who sleep on their sides, which bra has a center insert of a firm resilient material fit within a soft fabric bra.

**Description of the Prior Art**

10     When women sleep on their sides, the breast on the upper side tends to hang down toward the lower breast causing wrinkles to form in the skin in the center of the chest, just above and between their breasts. Brassieres for supporting the breasts are well known, such brassieres are generally designed primarily to support the breasts when the wearer is standing. However, such prior art devices have not been entirely successful in  
15     separating the breasts to prevent the wrinkle that forms in between the breasts when the wearer is lying on her side during sleep.

Prior art U.S. Patent #5,897,422, issued 4/27/1999 to McGee, provides a sleeping brassiere that has a pair of shoulder supports, which extend to a back support. The sleeping brassiere also has a back support that extends from the back toward the front of  
20    the wearer, a portion encircling the wearer and a pair of cup-shaped breast supports. Each of the breast supports has a generally crescent-shaped portion curving generally around the outside and top of the wearer's breast. The crescent-shaped portion has an upper end adjoining the shoulder supports and a lower end adjoining the portion of said back

support encircling the wearer at a position generally between and below the breasts of the wearer when the brassiere is worn.

Prior art U.S. Patent #5,083,555, issued 1/28/1992 to Lewis, shows an apparatus suitable for reducing and preventing skin deformation in proximity to the breasts of a 5 human female when worn between said breasts, which includes a shaped deformable resilient central support member that has a first end and a second end. A removable outer casing encompasses the shaped central support member, the casing has a first casing end adjacent the first support member end and a second casing end adjacent the second support member end. A first closure means is positioned at the first casing end and a 10 second closure means is positioned at the second casing end, the closure means being adapted for enclosing the first and second support member ends within the outer casing. A securing means is on the outer casing between the first and second casing ends, the securing means being adapted for securing the apparatus to the torso of a human female and between the breasts of the female to reduce and eliminate skin wrinkling.

15 Prior art U.S. Patent #5,961,986, issued 10/5/1999 to Killen, claims a preferred embodiment of an anti-wrinkling apparatus that employs a substrate with an adhesive for securing the apparatus to the user's skin for deterring skin folding and, thus, wrinkles. In another aspect of the present invention, the substrate has a substantially heart shape. In a further aspect of the present invention, the apparatus does not have a preformed shape 20 and is flat prior to use. In yet another aspect of the present invention, the anti-wrinkling device of the present invention is applied between the breasts. In still another aspect of

the present invention anti-wrinkling apparatus, multiple stacked adhesive and liner layers, as well as a substrate layer, are provided for allowing repeated application and removal.

Prior art U.S. Patent #6,102,772, issued 4/15/2000 to Fernandez, describes an anti-winkle brassiere that is specially designed for night use and as an element for 5 preventing inter-mammary wrinkles. It also has a protection element for the back and the dorsal vertebra and it prevents back pain. It has a front portion that covers the inter-mammary zone and two oblique straps, which are joined to the extended back portion, that prevent the inner sides of the breasts from touching. The straps only cover the shoulder part and form lateral arches, which deviate from the line marked by the day 10 brassiere, for a good lymphatic drainage. It remains fastened to the skin and its inferior border is located a few centimeters under those found on conventional brassieres.

Prior art U.S. Patent #5,807,160, issued 9/15/1998 to Wehmeyer, discloses a cleavage-winkle protector that is constructed of satin or similar lingerie-type fabric and stuffed with polyester fiberfill. The protector includes stretch lace neck and torso straps. 15 The protector is approximately 6-1/2 inches long and 2-1/2 inches side. The protector is designed to be worn between the woman's breast while sleeping to protect the cleavage skin from folding when she lies on her side.

Prior art U.S. Patent #3,746,007, issued 7/17/1973 to Hand, indicates a ladies sleeping garment that has the elements of a supportive brassiere therein. The garment will 20 support and mold the breast even when the wearer is in an unusual sleeping position.

Prior art U.S. Patent #1,891,871, issued 12/20/1932 to Donnet, puts forth a brassiere with a resilient, stiff and bent strip with rounded edges that is centrally located, which is adapted as a separating member between the breasts.

What is needed is a bra for sleeping which supports the breasts with the woman  
5 sleeping on her side to prevent the upper breast from tending to hang down toward the lower breast and thereby prevent wrinkles in the skin in the center of the upper chest.

### Summary of the Invention

An object of the present invention is to provide a bra for sleeping with a center breast support, positioned between the breasts, which supports the breasts with the  
10 woman sleeping on her side to prevent the upper breast from tending to hang down toward the lower breast and thereby prevent wrinkles in the skin in the center of the upper chest.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a bra for sleeping that is comfortable and is not exceedingly tight.

15 One more object of the present invention is to provide a bra for sleeping that is economical and easy to manufacture.

In brief, a sleeping bra that supports an upper breast of a woman sleeping on her side and thereby prevents wrinkles forming in the skin of the upper chest. The sleeping bra has a breast support pad positioned between the breasts of the woman. The support  
20 pad comprises a firm body that has a vertical section with a thick midsection and a back surface that conforms to the chest structure of the woman between the breasts. The support pad also has a concave curved cavity or cup on each side of the vertical section

that supports either breast of the woman with the breast in an upper position when the woman is sleeping on her side and prevents the breast in the upper position from hanging down toward the lower breast, thereby preventing wrinkling of the skin on the chest of the woman between the breasts. The support pad is formed of a molded firm material,  
5 such as a molded dense foam material, to conform to the shape of the chest and breasts between the breasts.

The bra for sleeping also comprises a soft fabric bra with a body encircling portion with a pair of cups for supporting the breasts of a woman and a centrally located pocket for holding the support pad. The pocket is formed by stitching a sheet of material  
10 to the inside of the bra between the cups, thereby forming a barrier between the support pad and the skin of the woman.

An advantage of the present invention is that it prevents wrinkles that form in the skin of the cleavage area of the chest.

Another advantage of the present invention is that it is comfortable.  
15 An additional advantage of the present invention is that it is affordable.

#### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

These and other details of my invention will be described in connection with the accompanying drawings, which are furnished only by way of illustration and not in limitation of the invention, and in which drawings:

20 FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of the center insert of the bra of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the center insert of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of the back of the center insert of FIG. 1; FIG. 4 is a perspective view partially broken away showing the bra of the present invention with the center insert in place and showing a piece of soft fabric sewn onto the inside of the bra to retain the insert in place.

5    **Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention**

In FIG. 4, a bra 20 for sleeping supports an upper breast of a woman sleeping on her side and thereby prevents wrinkles forming in the skin of the upper chest. The bra 20 comprises a breast support pad 21, as shown in FIGS. 1-4, positioned between the breasts of a woman. The support pad 21 comprises a firm body with a thick midsection 28, as 10 shown in FIG. 1. The support pad 21 further comprises a back surface 22 which conforms to the chest structure of the woman between the breasts. The support pad also has a concave curved cavity 23 or cup, shown in FIGS. 1-3, on each side that supports either 15 breast of the woman with the breast in an upper position when the woman is sleeping on her side and prevents the breast in the upper position from hanging down toward the lower breast, thereby preventing wrinkling of the skin on the chest of the woman between the breasts. The support pad 21 is formed of a molded firm material, such as a molded dense foam material, to conform to the shape of the chest and breasts between the breasts.

In FIG. 4, the bra for sleeping 20 also comprises a soft fabric bra 27 with a body encircling portion with a pair of curved front portions 29 for supporting the breasts of a 20 woman and a centrally located retainer means positioned between the curved front portions 29 for retaining the breast support pad 21 therebetween. The retainer means comprises a pocket, which is formed by stitching a sheet of material 26 to the bra 27

between the curved front portions 29. The sheet of material 26 is formed of soft fabric larger than the support pad 21 and is stitched to a backside of the bra 27, thereby forming a barrier between the support pad 21 and the skin of the woman.

It is understood that the preceding description is given merely by way of  
5 illustration and not in limitation of the invention and that various modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit of the invention as claimed.